



Salona exemplifies the dignified Federal-style farmhouses that once dotted the now urbanized fields of Fairfax County. Historically, Salona is noted as being the agreed rendezvous for President James Madison and his wife, Dolly, who left chaotic Washington separately during the British sack of August 24, 1814. President Madison reached Salona and stayed the night, but with approaching darkness Mrs. Madison stopped at nearby Rokeby, home of her friend, Mrs. Richard Love. The party was eventually safely reunited in the countryside farther west.

The tract on which Salona stands has been a part of the Lee family holdings since the first quarter of the eighteenth century. In 1812 Richard Bland Lee of Sully conveyed 42 acres of his farm, Langley, to the Reverend William Maffitt who built Salona around 1812.

Sometime after Maffitt's death in 1823, Salona was purchased by Chapman Lee of Connecticut. Chapman Lee later sold the house to Elisha Sherman. In 1853, Salona was purchased by Jacob Gilliam Smoot whose family retained possession of the property until 1951. During The Civil War, from October 1, 1861, until the following spring, Salona served as the headquarters of General George B. McClellan, Commanding Officer of the Army of the Potomac. At this time the house was damaged when the occupying troops removed much of the interior trim and otherwise disfigured the house. After The War, the Smoots returned to Salona, repaired, and enlarged the house by the addition of a two-story wing to the north.

[Nomination Form](#)



Salona

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places July 24, 1973

